

Luther Seminary Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary

China Oral Histories

Archives & Special Collections

1977

Midwest China Oral History Interviews

Frank Miles

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/china_histories

Recommended Citation

Miles, Frank, "Midwest China Oral History Interviews" (1977). *China Oral Histories*. Book 52.
http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/china_histories/52

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives & Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in China Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. For more information, please contact akeck001@luthersem.edu.

FRANK MILES
ORAL HISTORY ABSTRACT

BORN: Salem, Oregon.

EARLY LIFE: education; sent by Friends Service Unit (FSU) to
China.

CHINA EXPERIENCES: first assignment and adjustments to China;
political problems in China; assigned to Friends Ambulance Unit,
Medical Team (MT 19); sent to International Peace Hospital, Yen-an,
Shensi; impressions of the people, geography and working conditions
in the Shensi area; builds artificial limbs and teaches public health
in Shensi; diplomatic efforts by members of FSU; evaluates personal
and FSU's contributions to China.

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Stanley

DATE: 6-4-77

PLACE: Burlington, Ontario

NUMBER OF PAGES: 48

+ Complementary archival and museum material from Frank Miles is also housed
in the Midwest China Oral History, Archives and Museum Collection.

INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWER: Frank, I have some questions which I am trying to ask each member of our Medical Team 19 of the Friends' Ambulance Unit. I'll start out asking some questions about you, yourself. Would you mind telling something about where and when you were born, your family and education background?

MILES: I was born in Salem, Oregon of a Quaker family. My father had served during the First World War with the Quaker service group in France. My education prior to going to China was via a country school of 75 pupils outside Salem, Oregon. I went to high school in Salem and Portland, Oregon, one year of college at Oregon State, and another year at Gilford College in a training program for relief and reconstruction work. Following that I was in alternative service for conscientious objectors in the U. S. for three years before going to China.

I: How did it happen that you went to China at that stage in your life?

MILES: I suppose that one might say that the type of alternative service which a conscientious objector had, seemed a pretty pale experience compared to that of his friends who were risking life and limb in the various armed services around the world. One of the aspects of my decision at that time was the wish to get out and serve in a relatively dangerous place, but also to be of real and direct service to people who had been in the midst of war's suffering.

I: What did you know of China before you went there? What of political, military, medical or health conditions there?

MILES: I did know one of the members of the Friends' Ambulance Unit team in China with whom I'd worked while I was at Gilford College. He told me there was an urgent need for people to do mechanical or electrical work. Having grown up with tools in my hands, I thought this would be a way in which I could contribute directly to people.

I: Had this person been in the China Unit and come back and reported?

MILES: This person was in the China unit at that time and wrote to me. Scoop Bradshaw was his name. He was a former member of the Gilford College faculty.

I: Do you remember the perceptions you had of what you might like to accomplish in China? How did those perceptions change during your time in China?

MILES: I'm not really very clear on this. I had worked in mental hospitals during my alternative service work so that I knew one didn't work miracles with people in any immediate time. I was very anxious to do something which left a physical something there that Frank Miles had contributed, whether it was a building, or the wiring in a building, or the plowing of a field, something of that sort. I think during my period in China, I learned that those physical contributions were very small. Probably the most important contribution was the Chinese peoples' contribution to me: learning something about another culture, learning the patience to deal with long-standing issues, learning that

our ways of doing things aren't always necessarily right (neither are theirs), but having the perspective that I didn't have earlier. And 30 years later, I would say that my career has been considerably affected by this experience since I have worked in other cultures for 15 out of 25 years that I have practiced as an engineer in the industry.

I: What were the reactions among family or friends when you went to China?

MILES: I think at that point I had been independent of family, having lived on the east coast and my family was on the west coast. So that there really wasn't that kind of contact with family. Obviously, a number of friends said, "Well, you've already lost three years, why are you going to lose more?"

I: It was an independent decision on your part. Have you ever regretted that decision?

MILES: I don't think I have ever regretted it. Except, perhaps, the day I returned to the United States and I had worked four years in China, and found myself faced with the problem of continuing my education with no money in my pocket. There was one moment saying to myself, "Now, what am I going to do?" But without exception, I think that was one of the outstanding periods of my life that has contributed immensely to my joy in living and to the feeling that I had been and am of service to people.

I: I hope you don't mind my just going ahead with questions without much transition from one kind to another. What were your assignments in China, Frank?

MILES: On arrival in China, I was first assigned with Rube Stanley up in Hwei on a field irrigation project with a gasoline truck motor and a pump. We were rather naïve to think that this was an economic proposition. After some six weeks of watering, we calculated the price of the gasoline, which was three times the worth of the vegetables that had been grown in the field, without counting the time of Rube Stanley and myself. Following that I worked with Mark Shaw. The hospitals required coal coming into the winter. In the winter of 1946, Mark Shaw and I hauled coal for a number of weeks. It was just after that I was assigned to Medical Team 19, where we worked together for a period of over a year.

I: I remember the efforts to make the irrigation project go. Although the idea was fine and the motives good, the expense was just too great. I think it's very exciting now to realize that irrigation water flows through irrigation canals in China at the flick of an electric switch. I think that was one of the big impressions I had on returning to China. What adjustments did you find that you had to make in China?

MILES: That's an interesting question. I think the first adjustment was the language which I never really overcame completely. Having lived independently for some years, I was accustomed to group living. But there again, I think one was conscious of people around at all hours of the day and night in China. Many times it gave you a feeling of comfort, but there were other times that one wanted to be alone, and this was an adjustment to be made at times. I don't think that the diet or housing or clothing really affected me very much one way or the other. I was ready to take life as it came. It was somewhat more simple. We lived more simply than I had lived previously, but, if anything, this was a positive thing which I appreciated. It's a great feeling to know you can carry all your possessions on your back and not be overloaded.

I: So, in a sense, the adjustment was a positive one, whereas sometimes we think of an adjustment as being a more negative kind of difficulty.

MILES: That's correct.

I: We're talking about 1946, aren't we? At that time, what were the political, the social and the health conditions in China, as you saw them?

MILES: I was in China four months before going with Medical Team 19 (MT19) to Yen-an. I really did not have a very complete picture in those early days. However, after being in Yen-an with the well-organized social services and a sense of purpose among most people, I do recall the shock it was when we came out to Tientsin and Peking to find the disorganization, the beggars on the streets, the rampant inflation, the uncertainty of people everywhere, and the sense that there were no solutions to problems. The Chinese Government was helpless and people in the Nationalist's areas simply didn't have a feeling that they could solve their problems.

I: And you saw the health and social problems as part of the political and military problems?

MILES: That's correct. There seemed to be insurmountable problems. But each group wanted solutions to be their solutions. There was no readiness to work together to come to solutions. The country was very divided and factionalized.

I: What was this the result of?

MILES: I think it was the result of many things. The fatigue of a long war against the Japanese, with a civil war following immediately. It was the result of western domination of the leadership group that was in China at that point. Certainly at all levels there was a lack of sense of direction among those who were in a position to lead. There is no question about that. And a lack of commitment on the part of people. If they knew a direction they wanted to go, they were ready to give their all to accomplish it.

I: So at this point in the history of China, you sensed that people would like to have a direction but didn't find one?

MILES: That's correct.

I: How did you view the leaders of the factions of China? We're talking about the Nationalist and the Communist factions now.

MILES: I'm not sure that I can really comment to any great length. Certainly we knew of Mao Tse-tung, Chou En-lai and Chu Teh and other Communist leaders since we were in a very small area where you could sense who they were as people and what they were doing. These were honorable and very effective leaders, dynamic with energy, who knew what needed to be done and knew how to persuade and cajole people to follow their direction.

I: Did you meet any of those leaders?

MILES: I can't really answer that. I don't remember who I did. I had the impression I met Chou En-lai.

I: Was that at the airfield?

MILES: That may have been. I just have no specific recollection of this, 30 years after.

I: We are talking now about Yen-an, aren't we? How does it happen that you went to join MT 19 and went to Yen-an? What did you expect to find there?

MILES: I think I was new in China at the time and had not had any long term assignment. The opportunity to go to the International Peace Hospital represented an assignment in which I felt I could make a continuing contribution. It represented the kind of adventure, in another sense, which I was looking for, to be in a remote area of China where there was some uncertainty about the political stability of the area.

I: How were the arrangements made? Do you recall?

MILES: As I recall it, the unit leadership made the arrangements through Ambassador John Leighton Stuart's office for us to be transported by two of the planes of the U. S. Army's so-called peace mission, which was at Yen-an at that time.

We were transported to Nanking from Cheng-chow in Honan by train, as I recall it, and stayed in Nanking with a Mrs. Schroeder, perhaps, and just went to the airfield where supplies had been collected. They were loaded on the planes and we left with them.

I: Do you remember what kind of planes those were?

MILES: Yes, they were what we called the C-47. In commercial language, that was the Douglas DC-3, rather noisy. In this day and age we would question whether they could even get off of the ground, I think.

I: Was your assignment a select assignment? Did you come across an interest on the part of others to go where you were going?

MILES: I really didn't see others after going, and I'm not sure that there were others who were eager to go in my stead. I do expect that this did represent an opportunity and there would have been others delighted to undertake it.

I: At that time, there was interest on the part of the reporters and other foreigners in what was happening behind the blockades. What other foreigners did you meet in the Yen-an area?

MILES: Over the period of time that we were there, it represented several people, the first of whom I think is Ma Hai Teh, or George Hatem, who had been doing medical work there since the mid-thirties. Then as we arrived in Yen-an, as I recall it, Anna Louise Strong was there. We also met, at some point, a chap named Encest, Bill Hinton, Marian Menzies. Those were people that we met, as I recall it, at Shihchia Chuan when you and I traveled out there from Yen-an to Tientsin.

I: Now were they all Americans?

MILES: Marian Menzies was Canadian. I think the others were Americans.

I: What were they doing?

MILES: Each, I think, was doing some kind of work in the area of agriculture or education or reporting. I think there was a person who was with Marian Menzies, whose name I do not recall, who was doing writing of some kind.

I: Was it just a handful of foreigners that you met?

MILES: As far as I know, there were nothing but a handful of foreigners in Communist China at that point. It wasn't until a later date that I met perhaps a few others with UNICEF. I would be surprised if it was more than a dozen, beyond our own group.

I: Beyond our own group of seven?

MILES: That's right.

I: And we were a cosmopolitan group, New Zealanders, Canadians, British, and Americans, weren't we? We were looked upon as foreigners. The local people often guessed wildly that we were just foreigners. But then we might have been Japanese or anything that represented foreigners to them. Is that your recall?

MILES: Yes. What interested me as we went into this Northwest area (as you recall we were a very brief period in Yenan after which we traveled on foot with the dislocation of the hospital by the civil war) was we were meeting people who had never seen foreigners in all their lives. I will never forget our first day or two out when we found people who had never seen foreigners. They had too little water to wash so their skin was encrusted with earth. But they still had a real pride. They regarded us as foreigners and would have had no idea that there were as many countries and nationalities around the globe as we represented, I don't think.

I: What impressed you most about the Northwest? The Shensi area, which we learned to know quite intimately after walking its paths over a period of more than a year?

MILES: I think that I would look at the world around me first (that is the geographic region) and think of the loess hills that remind one of your lawn full of mole hills. This would be the geography of this country: the striking contrast of light and dark, the brown of the earth and the straight horizon, and the blue sky above, but not of colors. You have

light and dark shadows, but you don't have brilliant colors, except perhaps as the sun is setting. Then I would think of the simple life of the people as they have lived for the last 2,000 years in their caves.

Then I would think of the well-organized government. While there were never abundant supplies, there was never adequate medicine, these people recognized the limitations of this sort and managed to live with those limitations and still carry on relatively efficiently and effectively.

I: What impressed you most about the people we worked with, the work we were doing? Especially what impressed you about the circumstances under which we worked as our hospital became a more mobile hospital and we went from village to village trying to take care of both villages and casualties?

MILES: I think what impressed me most was the willing spirit in both the MT 19 group and the hospital personnel and leadership, their good humor and sense of purpose going from place to place. There never was a sense of defeat or overwhelming odds and difficulties. This is just life and we'll do what's necessary to carry on. Of course, the organization it took to furnish us with housing and food impressed me enormously, because this meant that lead persons had gone ahead and had made all the necessary arrangements. I don't believe we ever missed a meal, for example, in the total of many months which we were wandering from place to place, do you?

I: I think you're right. So you were most impressed by the spirit of the people to get on with what had to be done, so to speak. In the Communist-held areas what did you learn about Chinese Communists?

MILES: I suppose that what I learned was in our day-to-day dealings with people like Dr. Lee Ping, with Dr. Sou, with the personnel of the hospital, with some of the nurses with whom you worked. I don't recall the names of the girl who helped me with Chinese language at one point in time and who came from Shantung.

I: Was she our pharmacist?

MILES: That may be.

I: Yung Sung, I believe was her name.

MILES: That's the girl who had left her prosperous home where her father was a government official in Shantung and had marched to Yen-an to have the opportunity to serve the Chinese people. There is no question in my mind but what there was a sense of service in the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

I: Do you think Yung Sung was typical of the young people you worked with?

MILES: That's a hard question. I think she represented the elite of the people with whom we were working. There were many people with whom we were working who didn't have her fortunate intellectual training and background. But she worked as though she was one of them. I am sure she is the kind of person who, with many others, has served to spearhead as the moving spirit of the Communist Party.

I: You spoke of elites in the Communist areas. What about the "peasantry," the common people, the villagers and the farmers? What was their relationship with the leaders and those who might be described as the elite?

MILES: That's very difficult to answer. I believe that the average peasant in that part of the world felt that the new border region government which had come and its leadership was there in their best interest. They were having opportunities and were being treated more fairly than they had been in the past. This elite leadership did have a sense of knowing how to become one of the common people, so to speak, by washing their own clothes, by furnishing their own service. At the same time, you and I visited nursery schools which were for the children of the elite. I think the elite leadership was there and that was one of the reasons the movement went.

I: In the border regions where the Communist government held sway, what did you hear of Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang?

MILES: Oh, of course. Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang were the scapegoats for every problem that the Chinese people ever had. It all resulted from the vicious nature of Chiang himself and of his party. This is very striking about Communist groups everywhere. They need a scapegoat and these people served as a scapegoat and not without reason.

I: So you did hear of them?

MILES: In fact, there was a great deal of published propaganda and it was in the little news report that our translator interpreted for us. He gave the MT 19 a run-down. It was always about the terrible things that the Kuomintang and Chiang Kai-shek were up to.

I: How close did you come to military action?

MILES: I suppose I might say that we came within about a day's walking distance of military action because the patients whom we treated in the hospital had usually been a number of hours enroute to us at the hospital. That was while I was in this region. Later on in Honan, back at Chung Mou, in 1948, we were directly involved in fighting and in situations in which our hospital and village changed hands from one side to the other several times during the course of the summer.

I: Were there casualties there?

MILES: Really, in that situation, there were very few casualties. It was more noise and thunder than it was actual fighting. One group would fade from the scene and the other one would come in. The following night it was the reverse.

I: In discussions with Chinese people, what did you learn of their views toward foreign countries?

MILES: I think that we never had any very broad discussion of issues of this kind. As I recall it, their point of view was that the peoples of all countries were and should be friends. But the government of the U.S.A. was not representing the

interests of the people of the U. S., particularly in its efforts to support the Kuomintang and work against the Communist Party, which was working in the interest of the people of China. I don't remember any specific comments about England, Canada or New Zealand. There was no question but what the future of China was with them. I still recall maps which showed even Indo-China as coming under Communist domination. And today that has certainly been realized.

I: Where did you see those maps?

MILES: I remember it was on a very light paper and I suspect that it was in one of the visits down to the headquarters village, where Dr. Ssu was.

I: Did you ever get into a conversation with Chinese friends or officials to try to persuade them to use peaceful means to bring about change instead of civil war, which was raging about us?

MILES: I certainly had some philosophic discussions with Communists with whom we were working. I think it was more in terms of their sense of having to do everything today because they were the only people who knew truth and knew what was the right thing to do. I discussed our Christian philosophy in which we think there are basic moral principles, there is a God who has established these moral principles. If we work in the direction of those, then changing the world isn't up to us and our generation but can be carried out over many generations. But they were too impatient and this meant that their means were different from those that I would have supported. This we did discuss, but that was about the limit of it.

I: Did anyone ask you why you were there? Was there curiosity about what Friends believed?

MILES: I don't think there was really very much interest in what Friends believe, but there certainly was great interest in why we as foreigners had come to China, and what our purposes were. We did discuss that at some length, the fact that we felt we could be of service in the part of the world that had suffered from war and that we were there to donate our time to be of service to people. I think they had very little concept of Christian religion in this area.

I: Onto another theme here. Were there ever strains in relationship between us foreigners and the Chinese?

MILES: I think that we were super-conscientious people and the strain was often the fact that we felt we were not contributing very much because there was little work to be done and we were weight on the shoulders of our Chinese counterparts. They were always very generous, and said, "Don't be concerned." I think it was this difference in time sense between ourselves as westerners who had to push ahead and these people who knew that you can't always push ahead. These were the things that on occasion made for stresses.

I: And differences in our background, more than differences between us?

MILES: That's correct.

I: In our medical team of seven foreigners, how were the decisions made?

MILES: That's an interesting question because I think I really didn't feel that any one person was making decisions, but somehow we always managed to communicate with each other. Assignments came out of those group discussions without the feeling that one or another had imposed or had necessarily been the leader in getting the decisions made. They were joint decisions relative to the skills which each of us had.

I: Lots of communication, as I remember. We had lots of time, actually, to discuss. In eating together, we spent a lot of time, I think, in communicating. That may be one of the secrets of working together in that case. What would you say were your greatest difficulties and your greatest satisfactions while you were in China?

MILES: I suppose in terms of the area MT 19, my greatest difficulty was when I finally had a job to do (which was making artificial limbs) to have to wait for four to six weeks for a piece of leather to make the cuff of the leg. This may not sound very major, but this was one of the few things that I could do for people, and my work was blocked. That was a very great difficulty. The artificial limbs were patterned after those made by British prisoners of war in Burma during World War II. A cuff was made in leather to fit the thigh with a formed bottom to fit the stump. A piece of willow wood served as the artificial limb and was split and brought up along each side of the leather cuff. When the wooden limb was riveted to the cuff, it made an integral artificial limb.

In terms of satisfaction, as I look back from 30 years, and as I have worked with many groups of people, I am grateful that we as a team, and we with the hospital group, had throughout amicable, constructive, and positive relationships together, and that we were almost always buoyant. While we may have complained that there was too little to do, we had a sense that we were doing something that was important. We were in the right place at the right time, and this is rare, I think.

I: I have been reminded this week of that kind of spirit. What patients in our hospitals do you remember and why?

MILES: I suppose basically I remember the few with whom I worked in helping put on a plaster cast or making a pair of crutches or the young boy for whom I made an artificial limb. It was so striking that these were people who were very grateful for the services that were provided for them, and they took their injuries in a very matter of fact way without feeling sorry for themselves in any way.

I: What elements of traditional Chinese medicine were you aware of?

MILES: I think I was hardly aware of traditional Chinese medicine.

I: Were you involved in training the Chinese?

MILES: I certainly was. I was part of the sanitary staff for our hospitals, if you will recall. We helped dig toilet holes and had pictures of flies, how flies carry disease. Training in sanitary matters was basically showing by example the importance of cleanliness. After building latrines at hospital locations, we would show pictures to staff and patients depicting how flies do carry germs and this contributes to illness.

I: You've talked a lot about our work connected with the hospital. What about the time when you weren't working?

MILES: I think that we did all kinds of things for recreation. I recall many strolls up a hillside with various members of the team to old temples, sliding down waterfalls that had frozen in mid-winter, sitting around a vegetable oil lamp in the evening, reading Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography, playing the game of Hearts (which we called "slippery lady") or just conversing. If it happened to be daylight and the sun was shining, we would sometimes sit on a bench out in front of the caves where we were living at that time. I also remember just walking up and down through the villages, hearing the children's voices and animals and perhaps someone playing an old instrument similar to a mandolin, and just revelling in the sounds that come from village life, and this was part of my recreation.

I: What was the situation when you left China?

MILES: I left China in May of 1950, just before the Korean War broke out. At that time I had been living in Shanghai and the Communists had taken Shanghai in mid-1949. The whole country, of course, was controlled by the Communist Government at the time that I left.

I: Were you one of the last of the Friends to leave China?

MILES: There were some few who left almost immediately thereafter, and there were some others, like the Lovetts, who were stuck in China for some period of time because of the outbreak of the Korean War, and the political implications that there were for Americans in China at that time. But I was one of the last. I suppose there were five or six foreign members of the unit still there when I left.

I: What was your reason for leaving at that time?

MILES: I felt that my assignment had been completed in China. I had had a number of years of my life doing service work, such as with the FAU in China, and I wanted to continue my college education.

I: What did you expect to happen in China after you left?

MILES: I expected greater stability in China, as obviously the Communists were victorious in that situation, a consolidation of their power in the country, and substantial physical progress. Thirty years afterwards I am amazed at the amount of progress as we have seen films this week-end and slides of your trip in 1972, of the Hughes in 1974, and Edgar Snow's film. It's clear that this kind of progress has been continuous, very substantial with the unified government of China since that time.

I: In another 25 to 30 years, what might you expect?

MILES: I'm not very good at crystal ball gazing. I think I'll leave history to make itself.

I: After you left China and returned to the United States, were you criticized for having been in a Communist-ruled area?

MILES: I don't believe I was really criticized. There were certain government agents who made contact with me on several occasions in the first two years that I was back, asking if I knew someone who had worked in Communist territory. There was never more than informational questions. There was, on occasion, an attempt to get me to judge character. I always refused to do so, and really this was the only kind of thing that came to my attention. I have never experienced in working relationships or among my friends any criticism for having worked in Communist areas.

I: Did the Friends try to influence the foreign policies of their own countries towards China?

MILES: Yes, certainly the Friends did try to influence. I think we all must remember that we are a very small sect, and that we may occasionally be able to put across another point of view. I think Friends were very effective aides to Leighton Stuart when he was ambassador in China, in passing messages, because he knew of our peaceful interests. But I think our attempts to influence foreign policy really weren't very realistic in that we don't represent a very major portion of the population nor majority view in our country.

I: What do you mean by passing messages?

MILES: At the time after the civil war had been enroute for some time, Leighton Stuart was still anxious to see if there weren't some options open by which the civil war could be brought to a close. When Lewis Hoskins and I were in Shih Chih Chuan in the summer of 1948, some few months after you and I were there, Lewis did bring messages from Leighton Stuart to the leader of CLARA-China Liberated Area Relief Administration. The leader was Teng Pai Wu.

I: Were there other instances?

MILES: If there were, I'm not familiar with the other messages that may have been carried by Friends.

I: This was a matter of trust on both sides then; trust in the Friends on the part of officials on both sides?

MILES: That's certainly true. And the fact that Teng Pai Wu was willing to hear our messages represented some special element of trust, I felt, although he did feel forced to hear our message in private and not with any other officials around.

I: What is your evaluation now of our collective, or your personal, contribution to China?

MILES: I think that in direct terms, the Friends Service Unit in China did make several contributions towards the concept of the barefoot doctor's system which is used in China today. Our kala-azar teams, where we trained people to diagnose and treat kala-azar and to do simple things like treating eye diseases and scabies at the same time, I believe is one of the building blocks on which the barefoot doctor program came along.

I: I think that's a very interesting observation.

MILES: I think in human terms that we left a depository of good will in China, if you will. Even in Chung Mou where I was later after being with MT 19, people had been very suspicious of us initially because they couldn't imagine foreigners coming out of good will.

I: It was that different?

MILES: Oh, it was that different. But after our several years of effort, we had a very close relationship with the community. When we entered, things would be stolen. By the third year we were working together, we could leave anything out and it would not be stolen. So even under those conditions, I think we left a reservoir of good will which in one way or another will have benefit over the long term. Certainly we, as individuals and as a group, brought back more from China than we gave.

I: That sounds as if you believe it was an exchange.

MILES: That's correct.

I: What would you like to have done differently?

MILES: I suppose the most important thing is that I would like to have known Chinese history before I went. If not when I went, to have learned it right away. I was too young and too inexperienced to recognize the validity of understanding which comes through knowledge of history. I think I could have been more effective had I had that background or gotten it once I was there on the scene.

I: May I ask one other question and then I would like you to make any comments you would like to. Has your own health been affected adversely by your time in China?

MILES: Overall, I'm sure my health has not been affected adversely. However, in the last year that I was in China, in Shanghai, I had all the intestinal parasitic diseases that one can develop.

I: You didn't in the countryside, but you did in Shanghai?

MILES: That's correct. I think because our food was carefully cooked in the countryside. When you got to the city and ate in restaurants, you didn't know what you were getting. I did have a severe problem. Since I had amoebic dysentery along with the other bacillary difficulties and hookworm, the first couple of years that I was home my intestines were fairly sensitive. Since then I have been in very good health all of these years.

I: That sounds good. I do have a couple more questions that I would like to throw out. Who are the most memorable people you met in China, either Chinese or foreigners?

MILES: The first person who comes to my mind is Lao Ma, who was the night watchman at the machine shop and garage in Chung Mou, where I worked after I left MT 19. During the summer of 1948, I was responsible for this garage and Lao Ma and I were responsible during the night when our community was changing hands between armies. He was such a solid character, full of stories. When I looked at the hardship he faced in life and saw his cheerful and obliging spirit and his courage under very difficult circumstances, he is one of the outstanding people that I met. There were many, many others. Chou En-lai whom we met very briefly. Dr. Mah Hai Teh, Dr. Sui, Leighton Stuart, who was the U. S. Ambassador at that time, whom I met and dealt with on frequent occasions after I became chairman of the unit in 1948 and 1949. Leighton Stuart was helpful on several occasions when the FSU needed official backing to clear medical supplies into China and on occasion on to Liberated Areas. He had a real interest in the work of the FSU and was briefed regularly on its work. Lucy Burks, who was teaching at Yenching University. These are the people that come to my mind at this time, beyond those unit members, many of whom have strongly influenced my life since and who represented outstanding people.